

REMARKS

Based on a recent interview with the Examiner, Applicant is filing this continuation application. According to the Examiner, if a suitable Terminal Disclaimer is filed, newly added claims 14-45 are allowable. Filed concurrently herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer based on U.S. Patent 5,809,729. Applicant has further added new claims 46-55, which Applicant submits are allowable over the prior art.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Paragraphs beginning at lines 17, 18 and 22 of page 7 have been amended as follows:

Fig. 1A is an exploded view of interconnected upper and lower perimeter framing members attached to panels 54a and 54b of the first embodiment viewed from [behind]in front of the wall panels, with a portion of the upper perimeter framing member being cutaway to reveal the drainage holes and capillary break;

Fig. 1B is an exploded view of the lower perimeter framing member 58b of the first embodiment;

Paragraphs beginning at lines 2, 4, 16 and 19 of page 8 have been amended as follows:

Fig. 1C is an exploded view of interconnected upper and lower perimeter framing members 66b and 58d of the first embodiment;

Fig. 1D is an exploded view of the upper perimeter framing member 66d of the first embodiment;

Fig. 6A depicts a number of adjoining wall panels sealed by a third embodiment of a wall panel mounting according to a second aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 6[A]B is an exploded view of interconnected lower perimeter framing members of adjoining wall panels of the third embodiment viewed from in front of the wall panels, with the upper perimeter framing member being cutaway to reveal the flexible sheet interlock;

Paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 9 has been amended as follows:

Figs. 12-13 [depicts]depict a third method for installing the flexible sheet interlock which uses a shelf or lip on the perimeter framing member to protect the edges of the flexible sheet interlock;

Paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 11 has been amended as follows:

Referring to Figs. 1A, 2 and 3, the upper and lower perimeter framing members 66 and 58 define a recess 82. The capillary break 74 extends downwardly from the upper perimeter framing member [74]66 to divide the recess 82 into a circulating chamber 86 and an inlet 90. The capillary break 74 is located nearer the wall panel 54 than the drainage holes 78 to block or impede the flow of droplets 94 entrained in the airstream 98 into the drainage holes 78.

Paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 14 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 4 depicts a second embodiment of a wall panel mounting assembly according to the first aspect of the present invention. In the second embodiment, the drainage holes 150 are located on a substantially vertical surface 154 of the lower perimeter framing member 158. Because a vertically oriented drainage hole is more susceptible to the entry of fluids than the horizontally oriented drainage hole of Fig. 2, the preferred minimum distance " $D_H$ " from the rear surface 162 of the capillary break 168 for the second embodiment is greater than the preferred minimum distance " $D_H$ " from the rear surface for the first embodiment. More preferably, the drainage hole 150 is located at least about 0.75 inches from the rear surface 162 of the capillary break. The center of the drainage hole 150 is located above the free end 124 of the capillary break [162]168 and more preferably the entire drainage hole 150 is located above the free end 124 of the capillary break 168.

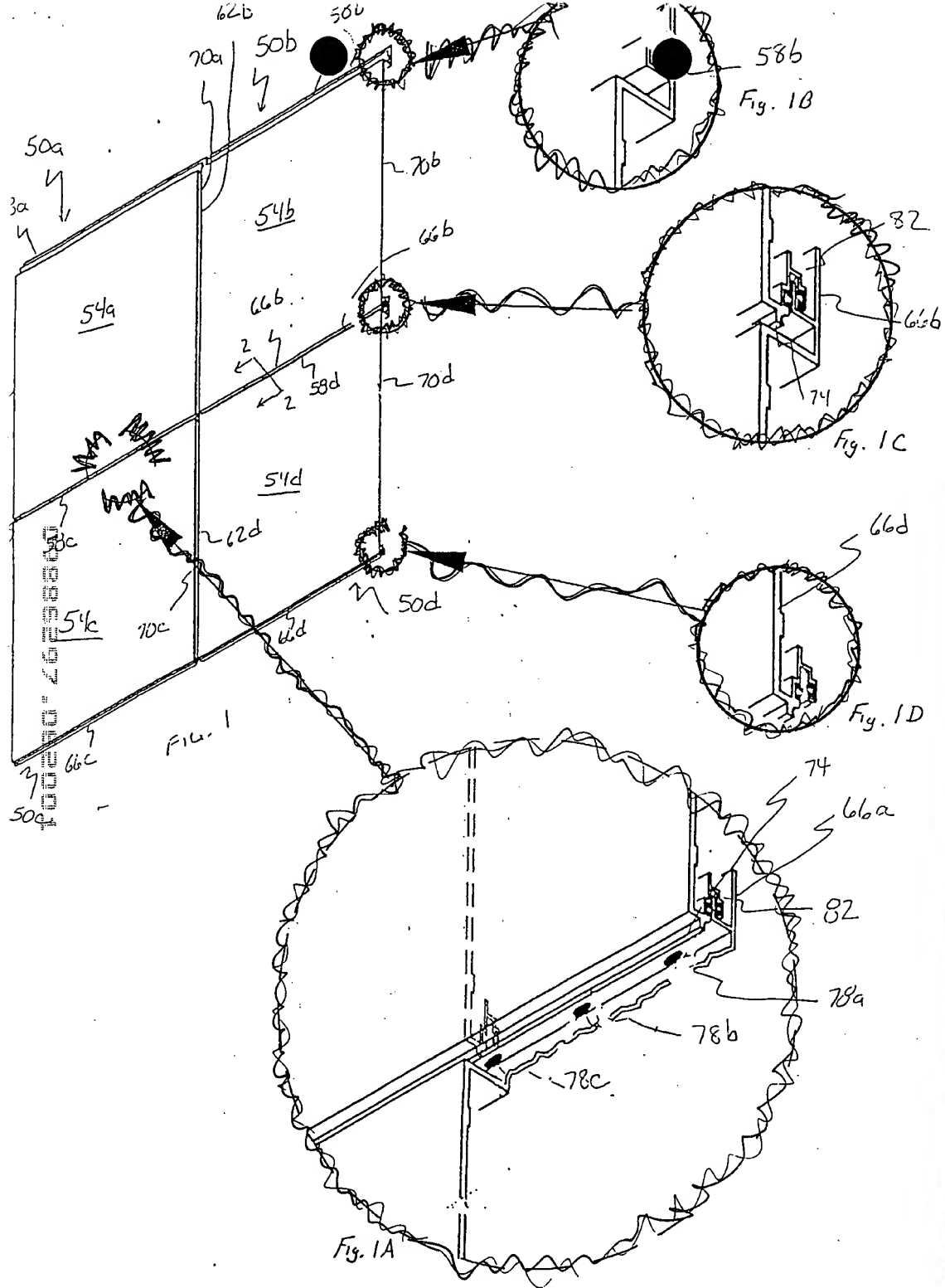
Paragraphs beginning at lines 7 and 19 of page 15 have been amended as follows:

Fig. 6A depicts a third embodiment of a wall panel attachment system according to a second aspect of the present invention. The system uses a flexible sheet interlock to seal adjacent perimeter framing members. At the joint between the upper perimeter framing

members 66a,b of adjacent wall panels 54a,b, a flexible sheet interlock 250 inhibits fluid migration along the joint defined by the adjacent ends 254a,b of the adjacent gutters of the perimeter framing members 66a,b. The flexible sheet interlock 250 realizes this result by retaining fluids in the adjacent gutters 83a,b. Accordingly, the interface between the flexible sheet interlock 250 and the gutter walls is substantially impervious to fluid migration. As can be seen from Fig. 6[A]B, the flexible sheet interlock has sufficient flexibility to conform to the "U"-shaped contour of the gutter.

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 16 has been amended as follows:

Referring to Figs. 6A and 7, the interface 260 can include an adhesive 264 between the flexible sheet interlock 250 and each of the three gutter walls 268a,b,c to retain the interlock 250 in position. Although the flexible sheet interlock 250 itself may possess adhesive properties, an adhesive, preferably having sealing properties, has been found to assist the formation and maintenance of an integral seal between the interlock 250 and the gutter walls 268. The most preferred adhesive is a high performance compressed joint sealant that can "set up" or harden and bond to the gutter wall and the interlock. Examples of such sealants include silicone, urethane, and epoxy. Because the interlock 250 itself absorbs all of the thermal movement of the wall panels, there is no requirement for the adhesive 264 to stay resilient and move. The end result is a more economical system for sealing adjacent perimeter framing members that has a useful life equal to that of the exterior wall panel system.



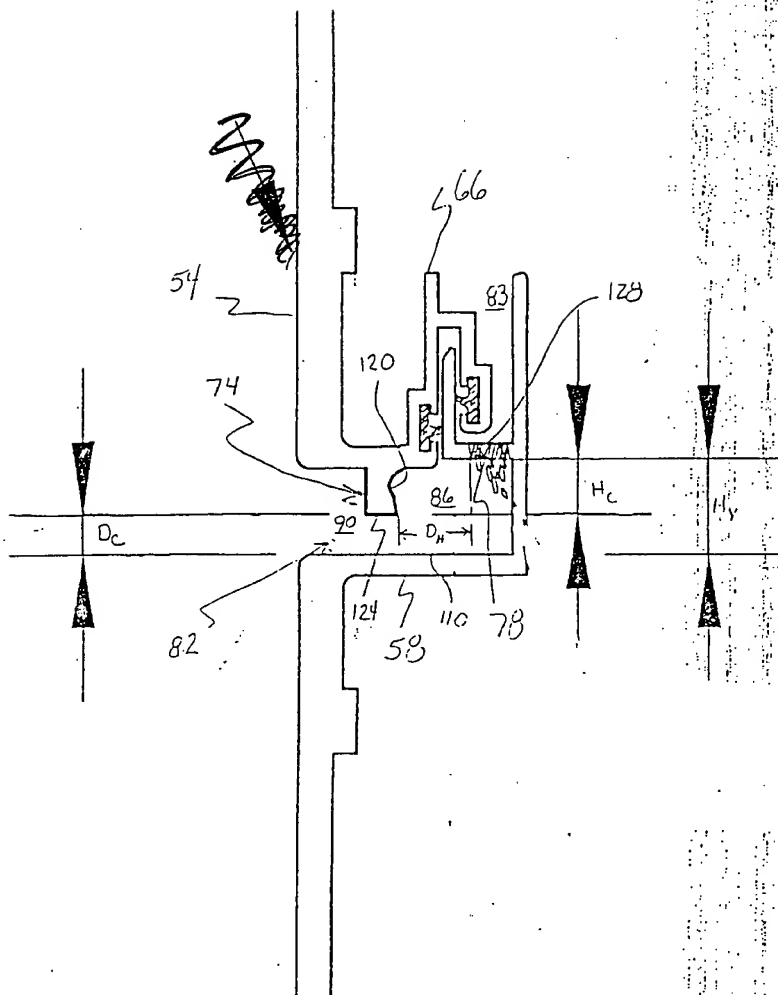


FIG. 2

98

94

54

74

66

120

50

86

90

110

78

82

106

102

54

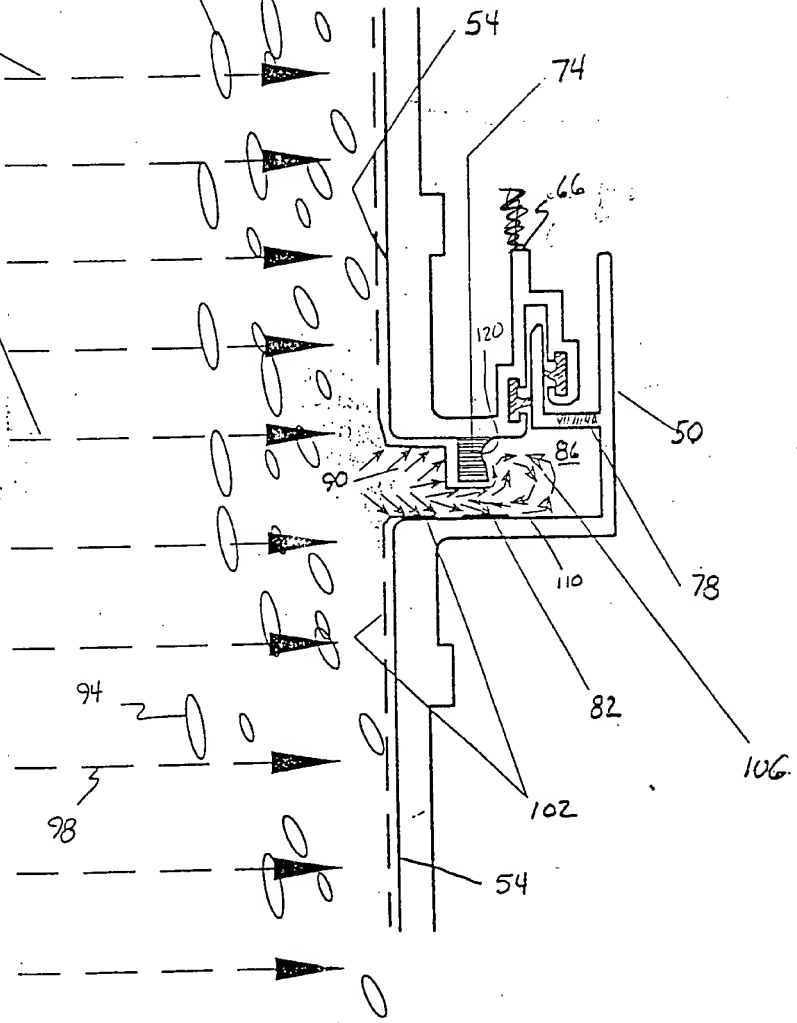
94

98

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FIG. 3



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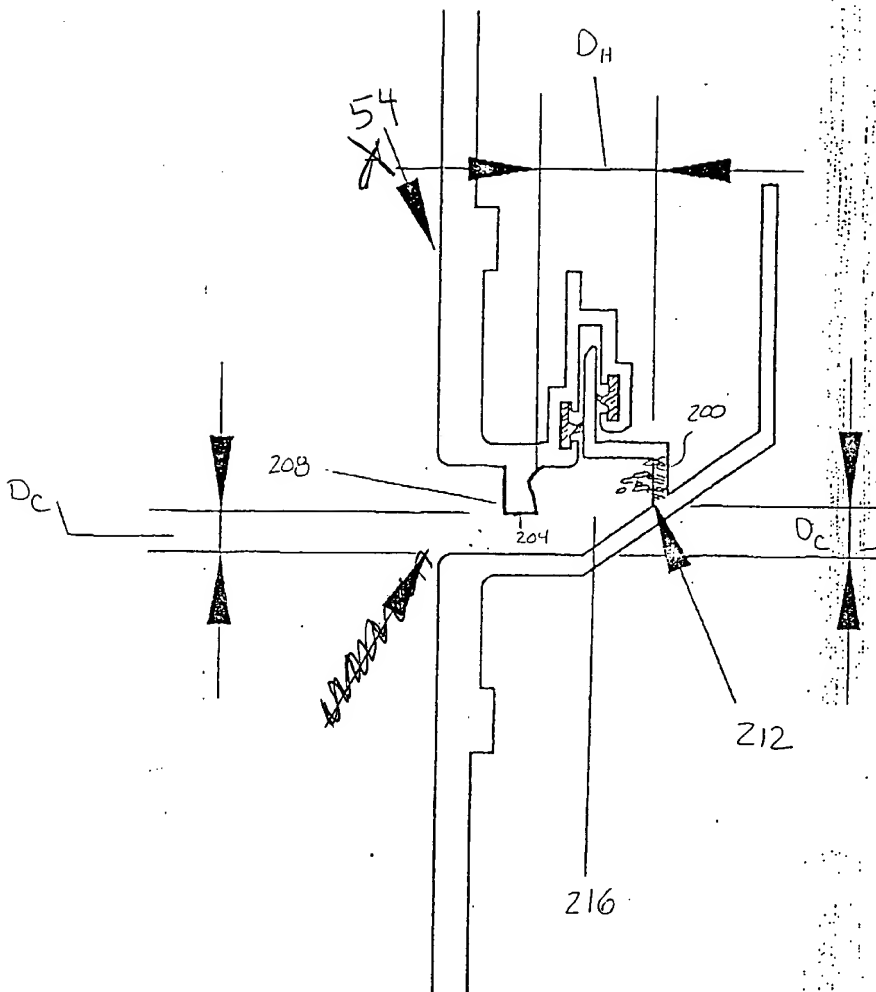
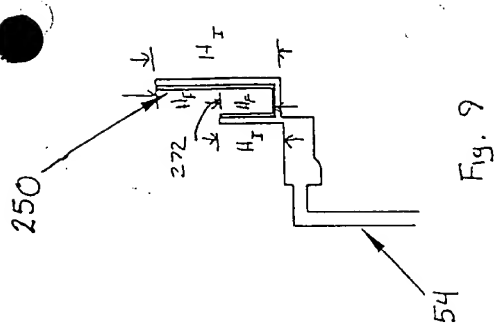
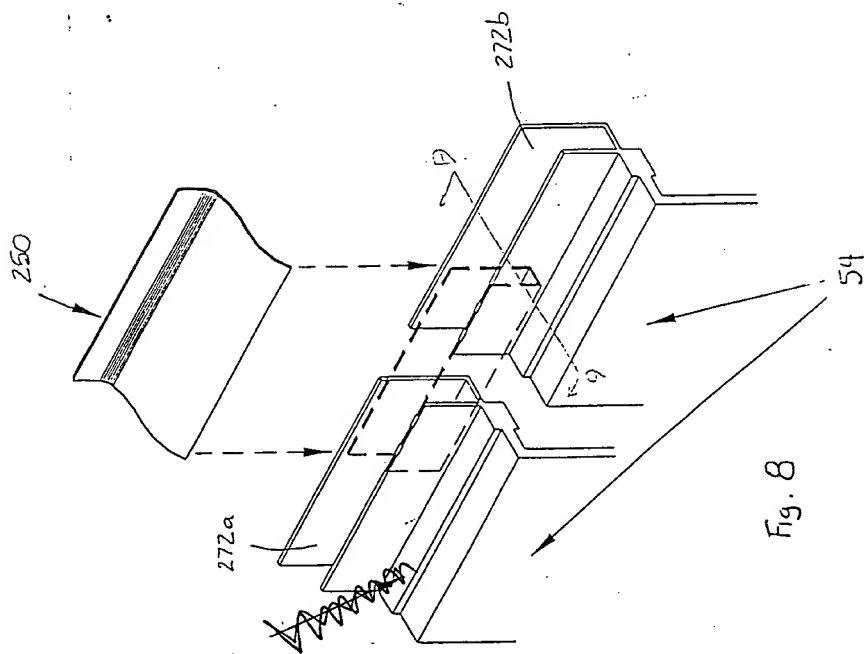


Fig. 5







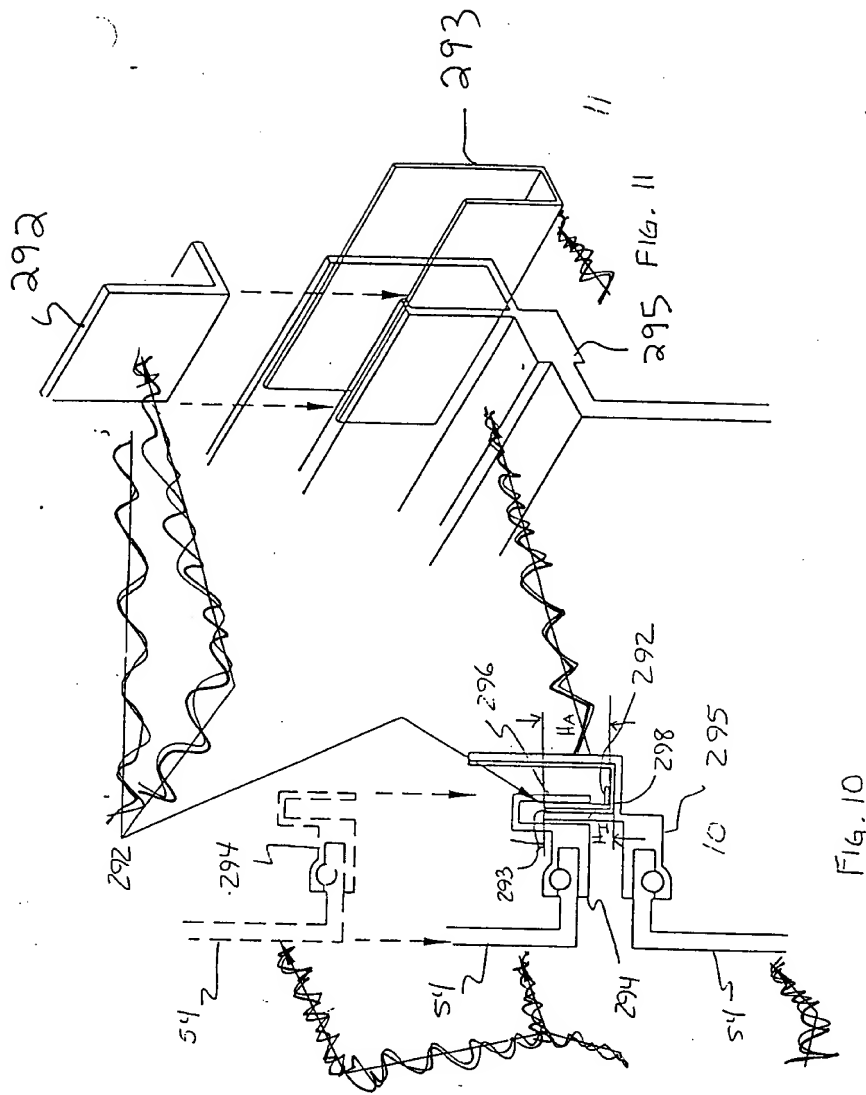


FIG. 10

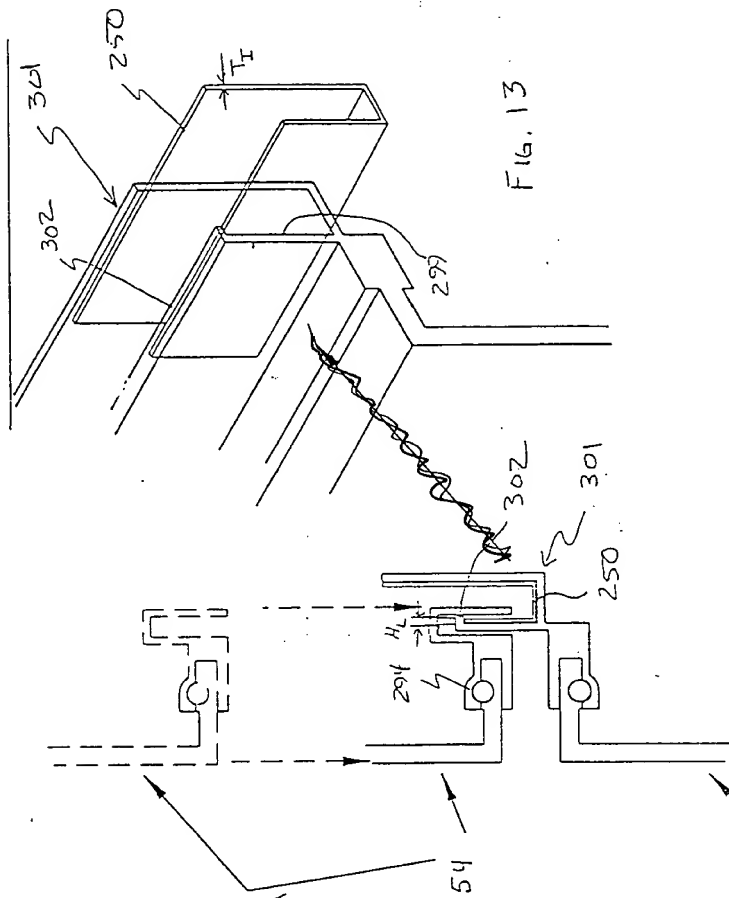


Fig. 12

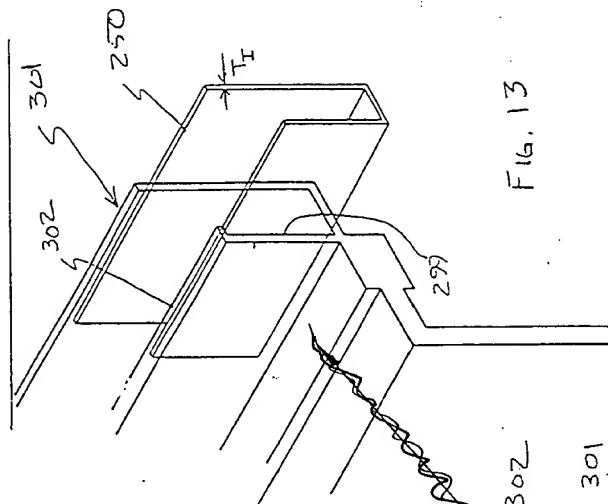


Fig. 13

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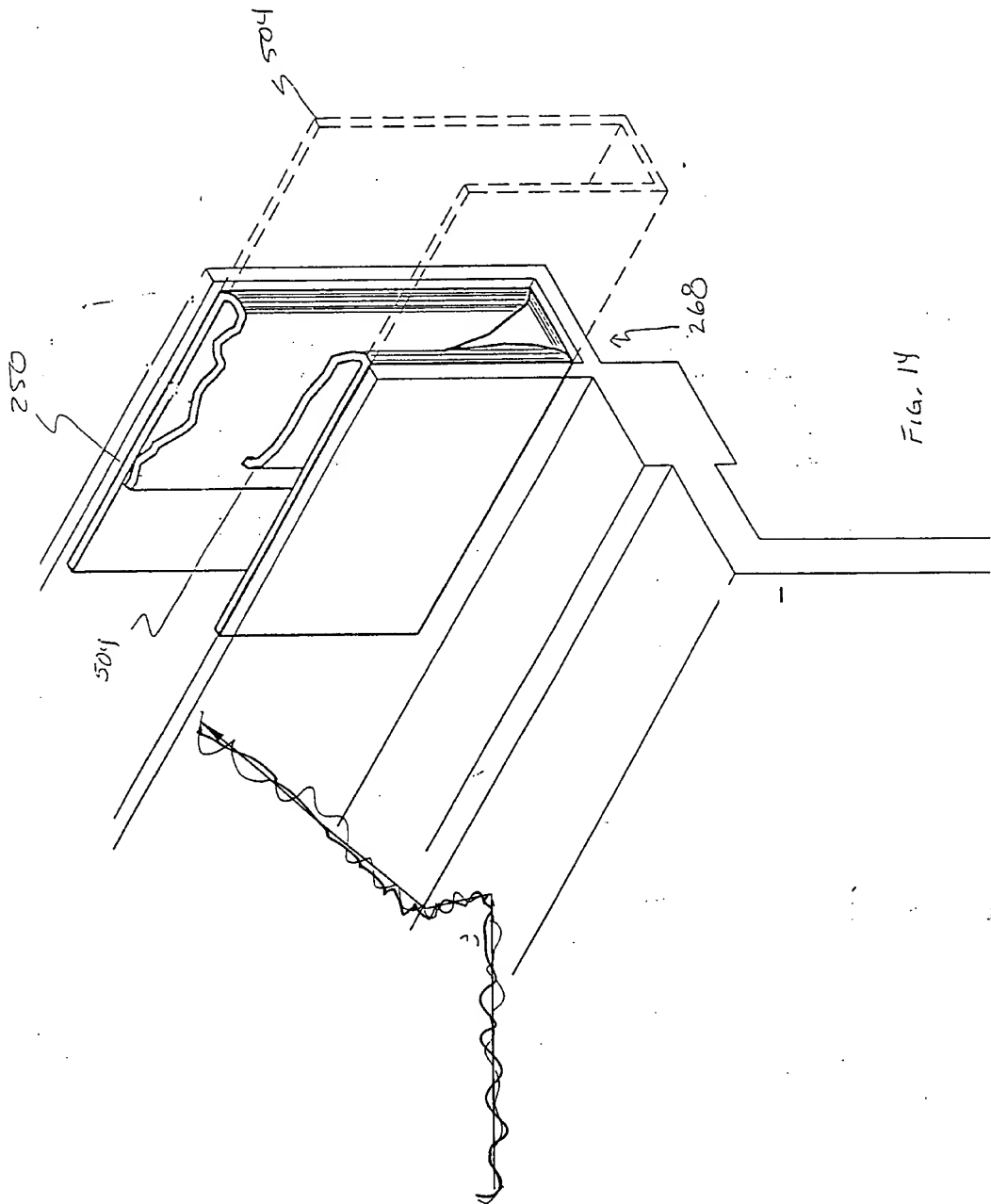


FIG. 14

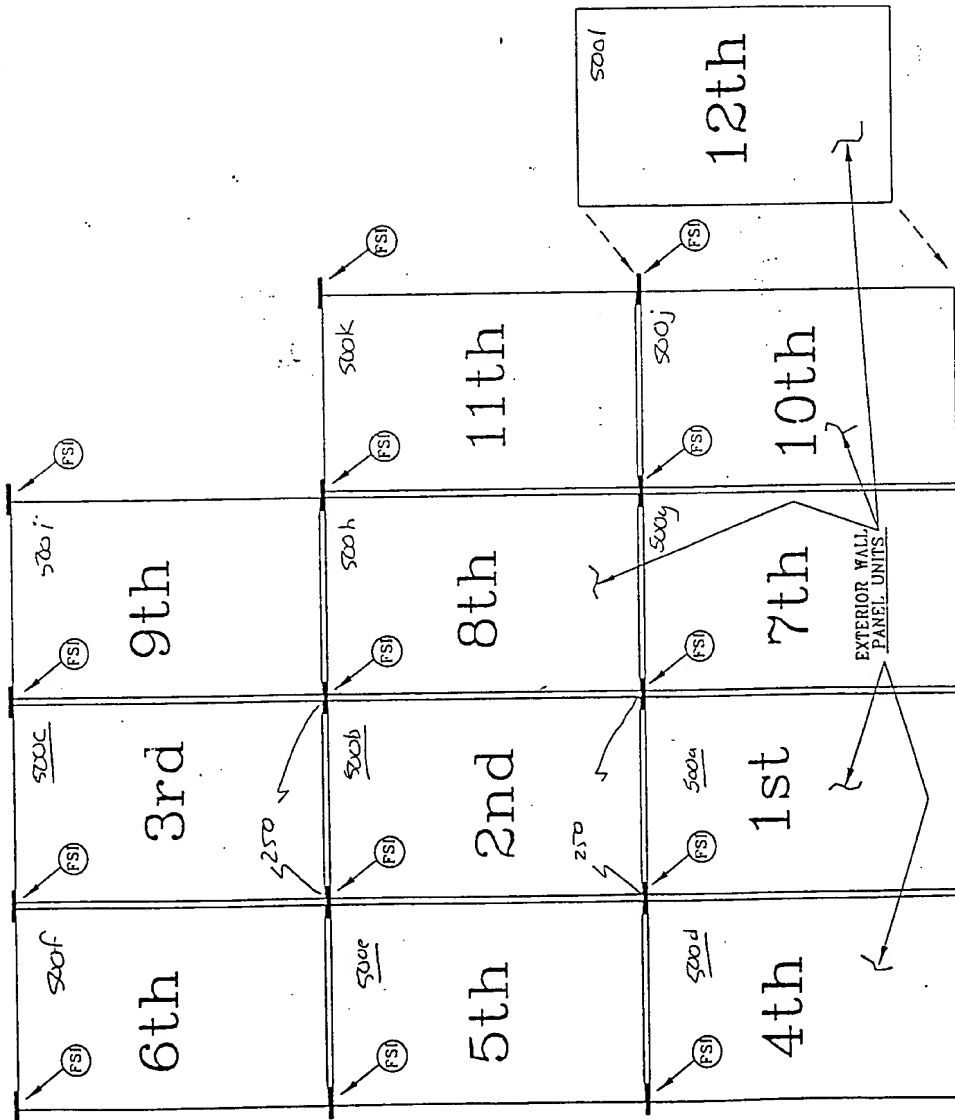


FIG. 15